RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR. Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA Managing Director

JOSIAH K. NISHITA Deputy Managing Director





## DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT COUNTY OF MAUI 200 SOUTH HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793

March 29, 2023

Mary Alice Evans, Director Environmental Review Program Office of Planning and Sustainable Development 235 S. Beretania Street, Room 702 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: Publication of the Draft Environmental Assessment and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (DEA-AFONSI) for the County of Maui's Hālau of 'Ōiwi Arts, Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i (TMK: (2) 3-4-013: 051 (portion))

Aloha e Ms. Evans,

With this letter, the County of Maui (County) Department of Management, as the proposing and determining agency, submits the Draft Environmental Assessment and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (DEA-AFONSI) for the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Arts (HOA) in Wailuku, Maui.

The HOA will be a Hawaiian cultural and community center to help advance hula and native and local arts. It will be a two-story building with an estimated total gross building floor area of ~46,000 SF including an intermediary mezzanine. It will include a mix of workshop, studio, and learning space, a flexible event space, a kitchen, support office space, and an exhibit/reception area. In addition, there will be smaller retail/restaurant spaces along Vineyard Street, an internal courtyard, and an outdoor gathering space with landscaped areas. The HOA replaces the three-story County building that was originally proposed for the site as part of the Wailuku Civic Complex project. That project also included the municipal parking structure that is currently under construction and the streetscape and utility improvements to Vineyard and Church Streets which are nearly complete.

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The DEA-AFONSI has been prepared in compliance with both Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) and Chapter 200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR).

We request that the Draft EA be included in the April 8, 2023 edition of *The Environmental Notice.* A copy of this letter, the DEA-AFONSI as a searchable PDF, and project location map as a zipped shapefile have been submitted via the Environmental Review Program's online submittal portal.

If there are any questions, please contact our consultant, PBR Hawaii, attention Ms. Kimi Yuen at (808) 521-5631 ext. 24 or via email at kyuen@pbrhawaii.com.

Mahalo nui,

Kekuhaupio R. Akana

Managing Director County of Maui

cc: Ms. Erin Wade and Ms. Keanu Lau Hee, County DOM Ms. Kimi Yuen, PBR Hawai'i